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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,778	11/09/2001	Senthil Sengodan	05288.00025	5639
22907	7590	07/05/2007	EXAMINER	
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. 1100 13th STREET, N.W. SUITE 1200 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-4051			PEACHES, RANDY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2617	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/05/2007	PAPER

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. ***Claim 1-4, 9-11, 29 and 34*** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1).

Regarding ***claims 1 and 29***, Willars et al teaches of a method of handing off a user equipment (UE), which reads on claim "mobile terminal", from a Serving Network, which reads on claim "first network", served by a Serving Radio Network Controller (SRNC), which reads on claim "first access device", to a Target or Drift Network, which reads on claim "second network", served by a Target/Drift Radio Network Controller (DRNC), which reads on claim "second access device", comprising the steps of:

- sending an authorization inquiry from the said SRNC to the said DRNC, that includes an IMSI identifying the said UE. See paragraphs [0030 and 0063];
- querying a HLR, which reads on claim "database", maintained by a said Serving Network associated with the said UE to determine whether the said UE is authorized to be handed off to the said DRNC (see paragraphs [0066-0067]) by

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sending the authorization inquiry from the second access router to an administrative server, wherein the Examiner has interpreted the SRNC and the DRNC as a system containing both the base station and a controlling RNC, which reads on claimed "administrative server," and associated with the said DRNC and sending the authorization inquiry from the administrative server associated with the DRNC to a SRNC of the home network.

- in response to receiving the allowed list, the said DRNC responds by sending a filtered list of DRNC's, which in turn is received by the said SRNC which communicates this information to the UE, which reads on claim "determining that the mobile terminal is authorized to be handed off to the second access device, performing a handoff operation from the first access device to the second access device". See paragraph [0066], wherein the said DRNC then has full control over the connection with the terminal. The Examiner will further explain that in the field of endeavor, when the a handoff occurs the target or drift node take full control of the roaming user after handoff.; and
- in response to determining that the mobile terminal is not authorized to be handed off to the second access device, inhibiting the handoff operation from the first access device to the second access device.

Regarding **claim 2**, Willars et al teaches of method of **claim 1**, wherein step (3) comprises the step of transferring context information from the said SRNC to the DRNC. See paragraph [0068].

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Regarding **claims 3 and 34**, Willars et al teaches of a method of **claims 1 and 29**, wherein steps (1) through (4) are performed without allocating any radio frequency resources of the DRNC to communicate with the UE until after it is determined that the UE is authorized to be handed off to the DRNC. See paragraph [0011].

Regarding **claim 4**, Willars et al teaches of a method of **claim 1**, wherein step (2) comprises the step of querying the database on the basis of a list of DRNC's that are authorized to accept handoffs from the UE. See paragraph [0066-0067].

Regarding **claim 9**, Willars et al teaches of a method of **claim 1**, wherein steps (1) to (4) are conducted between said RNC's that use same access technology. See paragraph [0048].

Regarding **claim 10**, according to **claim 1**, Willars et al. teaches in paragraph [0023] wherein between said RNC's, and heterogeneous access technologies are used.

Regarding **claim 11**, Willars et al teaches of a method of **claim 1**, wherein step (2) comprises the steps of:

- sending the authorization inquiry to a MSC, which reads on claim "administrative server" associated with the said Target or Drift Network. See paragraph [0067];
and

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- sending the authorization inquiry from the said MSC to a said SRNC that accesses the database. See paragraph [0067].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. ***Claims 5 and 31*** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) in view of Chambert (U.S. Patent Number 5,499,387).

Regarding ***claims 5 and 31***, Willars et al., according to ***claims 1 and 29***, fails to disclose wherein the step of querying the database to determine authorization based on a time of day.

Chambert teaches in column 3 lines 54-64, where time monitoring unit is used to prevent handoff to neighboring cells during a certain time.

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to modify the teachings of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) to include Chambert (U.S. Patent Number 5,499,387) in order restrict handover to certain cells during a time when there are nominally higher capacity.

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3. **Claims 7, 8, 30 and 33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) in view of Kennedy, III et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,966,658).

Regarding **claims 7, 8, 30 and 33**, according to **claims 1 and 29**, Willars et al. fails to disclose wherein the step of querying the database on the basis of dynamic loading conditions and such that authorization is dependent upon dynamic loading conditions.

Kennedy, III et al. teaches in column 5 lines 51-67 wherein the connection of a communication path during handoff is contingent upon the characteristics of transmission time current load, speed, propagation delay, etc.

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to modify the teachings of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) to include Kennedy, III et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,966,658) in order to prevent the handoff process from over burdening the said system when candidates for handoff are processed

4. **Claims 12 and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) in view of Igarashi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2001/0053694 A1).

Regarding **claims 12 and 13**, according to **claim 1**, Willars et al. fails to clearly disclose wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed using the DIAMETER protocol and SIP protocol.

Igarashi et al teaches in paragraphs [0094, 0104] wherein the mobile node is able to transport information via various protocols, e.g. SIP and DIAMETER protocol, to facilitate the functions of Authentication, Authorization and Accounting.

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to modify the teachings of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) to include Igarashi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2001/0053694 A1) in order to comply with Internet standards of transporting information via IP.

5. **Claims 14-17, 22-26** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) in view of Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1).

Regarding claim 14, Willars et al teaches of a method of handing off a user equipment (UE), which reads on claim "mobile terminal", from a Serving Network, which reads on claim "first network", served by a Serving Radio Network Controller (SRNC), which reads on claim "first access device", to a Target or Drift Network, which reads on claim "second network", served by a Target/Drift Radio Network Controller (DRNC), which reads on claim "second access device", comprising the steps of:

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- sending an authorization inquiry from the said SRNC to the said DRNC, that includes a IMSI identifying the said UE. See paragraphs [0030 and 0063];
- querying a HLR, which reads on claim "database", maintained by a said Serving Network associated with the said UE to determine whether the said UE is authorized to be handed off to the said DRNC (see paragraphs [0066-0067]) by sending the authorization inquiry from the second access router to an administrative server, wherein the Examiner has interpreted the SRNC and the DRNC as a system containing both the base station and a controlling RNC, which reads on claimed " administrative server," and associated with the said DRNC and sending the authorization inquiry from the administrative server associated with the DRNC to a SRNC of the home network
- in response to receiving the allowed list, the said DRNC responds by sending a filtered list of DRNC's, which in turn is received by the said SRNC which communicates this information to the UE, which reads on claim "determining that the mobile terminal is authorized to be handed off to the second access device, performing a handoff operation from the first access device to the second access device". See paragraph [0066], wherein the said DRNC then has full control over the connection with the terminal. The Examiner will further explain that in the field of endeavor, when the a handoff occurs the target or drift node take full control of the roaming user after handoff; and

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- in response to determining that the mobile terminal is not authorized to be handed off to the second access device, inhibiting the handoff operation from the first access device to the second access device.

However, Willars et al fails to clearly disclose wherein the said equipment performing the handoff process is an access router.

Funato et al teaches in paragraphs [0036-0039], wherein the system includes a plurality of access routers (20), used to forward data between networks.

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to modify the teachings of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) to include Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) in order to transfer the functionality of mediating the handover processing to the access router which in turn optimizes the system by preventing the use to radio resources for handoffs.

Regarding **claim 15**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 14**, Willars et al teaches wherein step (3) comprises the step of transferring context information from the said SRNC to the DRNC. See paragraph [0068].

Regarding **claim 16**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number

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2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 14**, Willars et al teaches wherein steps (1) through (4) are performed without allocating any radio frequency resources of the DRNC to communicate with the UE until after it is determined that the UE is authorized to be handed off to the DRNC. See paragraph [0011].

Regarding **claim 17**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 14**, Willars et al teaches of a method wherein step (2) comprises the step of querying the database on the basis of a list of DRNC's that are authorized to accept handoffs from the UE. See paragraph [0066-0067].

Regarding **claim 22**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 14**, Funato et al. discloses in paragraph [0037] wherein the access router serves access devices, which reads on claim "mobile terminals", using Internet Protocol.

Regarding **claim 23**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 14**, Willars et al.

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teaches in paragraph [0023] wherein between said RNC's, heterogeneous access technologies are used.

Regarding **claim 24**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 23**, Willars et al. teaches in paragraph [0010] wherein the system uses GPRS technology.

Regarding **claim 25**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 14**, Willars et al teaches wherein steps (1) to (4) are conducted between said RNC's that use same access technology. See paragraph [0048].

Regarding **claim 26**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 14**, Willars et al teaches wherein step (2) comprises the step of sending an authorization inquiry to a said Serving Network associated with the said UE. See paragraphs [0066-0067].

6. **Claim 18** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and

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Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) in view of Chambert (U.S. Patent Number 5,499,387).

Regarding **claim 18**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 14**, fails to clearly disclose wherein the step of querying the database to determine authorization based on a time of day.

Chambert teaches in column 3 lines 54-64, where time monitoring unit is used to prevent handoff to neighboring cells during a certain time.

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to modify the combined teachings of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) to include Chambert (U.S. Patent Number 5,499,387) in order restrict handover to certain cells during a time when there are nominally higher capacity.

7. **Claims 20 and 21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) in view of Kennedy, III et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,966,658).

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Regarding **claims 20 and 21**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 14**, fails to disclose wherein the step of querying the database on the basis of dynamic loading conditions and such that authorization is dependent upon dynamic loading conditions.

Kennedy, III et al. teaches in column 5 lines 51-67 wherein the connection of a communication path during handoff is contingent upon the characteristics of transmission time current load, speed, propagation delay, etc.

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to modify the combined teachings of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) to include Kennedy, III et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,966,658) in order to prevent the handoff process from over burdening the said system when candidates for handoff are processed

8. **Claims 27 and 28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) in view of Igarashi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2001/0053694 A1).

Regarding **claims 27 and 28**, as the combination of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication

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Number 2003/0087646 A1) are made, the combination according to **claim 26**, fails to clearly disclose wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed using the DIAMETER protocol and SIP protocol.

Igarashi et al teaches in paragraphs [0094, 0104] wherein the mobile node is able to transport information via various protocols, e.g. SIP and DIAMETER protocol, to facilitate the functions of Authentication, Authorization and Accounting.

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to modify the combined teachings of Willars et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0013443 A1) and Funato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0087646 A1) to include Igarashi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2001/0053694 A1) in order to comply with Internet standards of transporting information via IP.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 19 and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding **claims 6, 19 and 32** the method of **claim 1, 14 and 29**, wherein step (2) comprises the step of receiving a result corresponding to querying the database on the basis of a membership plan associated with a subscriber of the mobile terminal.

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/17/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the Applicants Argument wherein Williards fails to disclose an administrative server associated with the second network that receives an authorization inquiry from the second access router and then sends the authorization inquiry to a home server of the home network that accesses a database.

The Examiner further explains that the the SRNC and the DRNC as a system containing both the base station and a controlling RNC, which reads on claimed " administrative server," and associated with the said DRNC and sending the authorization inquiry from the administrative server associated with the DRNC to a SRNC of the home network. Therefore, although the cited prior art does not state the exact wording of an administrative sever, the functionality disposed by the RNC is the same.

Claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-31 and 33-34 stand rejected.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Randy Peaches whose telephone number is (571) 272-7914. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Randy Peaches
RP

JEAN GELIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Gelin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name and title.